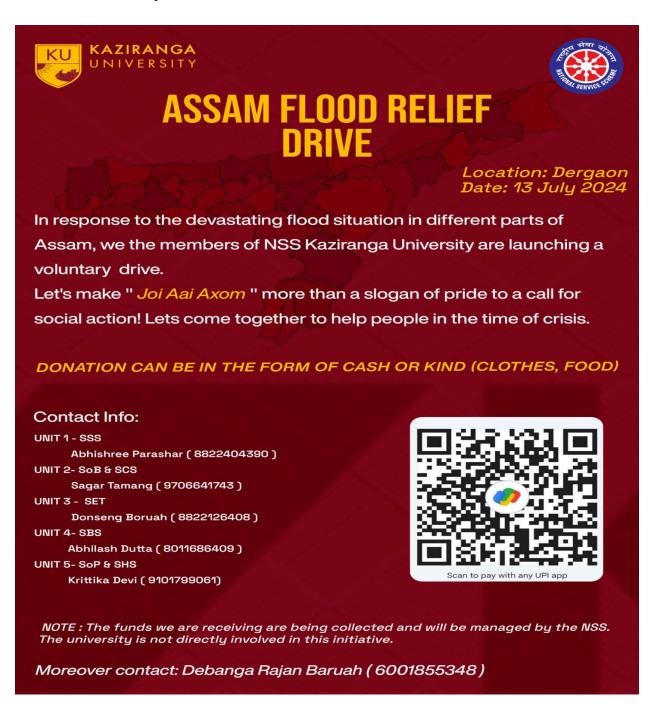
Flood Relief Drive -13 July 2024

Every year, devastating floods ravage villages of Assam and impoverish the people of the state. This year too, rains poured flooding many parts of Assam. In fact, this year has been one of the severe flood years, which has affected the entire state. In keeping with the objectives of NSS in understanding the community, their needs and problems, we felt the need to organize a flood relief drive in the campus.



Our NSS volunteers took initiatives to create awareness about the severity of the flood situation in the state and organized a donation drive on the campus to offer some relief materials to flood victims in nearby areas. The students bought basic food essentials and made packets of dal, rice, potato, salt and biscuits. We also packed some water bottles and sanitary pads for distribution.



Accordingly on the 13th of July 2024, a few volunteers along with the Programme Coordinator and three Program Officers, relief materials were taken to a flood affected village in nearby Dergaon. We began our journey around noon and reached the site after an hour. To distribute the flood relief materials, we took the help of the Gaon Bura, Kushal Bora, who facilitated the process. He gathered the villagers at the Notun Sapori Lower Primary School, which was also acting as a relief camp. He prepared a list of most affected people and the distribution was done smoothly. To honor the self-respect of the villagers who are affected by the flood, we decided to not click pictures of people receiving the relief material.





Overall, it was a humbling experience for all the students and faculty members as we heard their stories of survival and struggle of living next to the mighty Brahmaputra river. We learnt how the river takes away land as it erodes its banks and at times even gives back in the form of *char-chapori* land. The village comprised families from different ethnic backgrounds as they all had some stories of flood-induced displacement, some newly settled in the village, while some others came a generation or two back. We learnt how people can come together in times of crisis without looking at ethnic boundaries as families from different ethnic backgrounds were seen sharing land for shelter and cultivation. While floods are devastating, it was also comforting to hear that the sense of home and connection to land keeps people rooted in places. Thus, even though being located near the river, they face the danger of floods every year, they still love the river, as life by the river is the life they have known and adapted to.